



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

March 2003

Web Page

We have a new Web Master, Bob Roske, N0UF, and he has really been active with some changes to the home page. If you have not visited the web page recently I urge you to do so quickly, for it is interesting. Our past Web master changed jobs and had to turn it over to Bob.

The membership Directory is there, as in the past, but there is also a running list of new members, listed by month and displayed prominently. You Chapter Secretaries, and others in the Chapter, check this list every month and see if some of these new members are in your area. If you find one, make contact and invite them to join you at a Chapter meeting.

Bob has added an 'order sheet' which lists most everything that we have for sale to the members, which you can download and use to order an item. A number have shown up here with their Visa or Master Card information on the bottom. Until the card usage increases this is the best way to handle that now.

We also have applications on the web site for the Domestic, Canadian and the Foreign member prospect. These are 'fillable' applications. You download them using Acrobat, which everyone should have, and then complete them using your computer keyboard, print them, attach your check and mail them to Headquarters. How easy can it be?

Hopefully we will have the new golf shirts displayed on the web site, along with an order form, which will help with ordering and obtaining the necessary information. One shirt has a silk screened logo design, and the other shirt has an embroidered logo design and the option of having your name and call on the area above the pocket. Both are very attractive and both have a pocket.

Experiments are ongoing to obtain decent close up photos of our pins, the year ones, the standards pins and the Life pin. The patch and decal will be included also.

Take a look at "Confessions of a Recruiter", and try some of his suggested techniques. They work, you just have to do a small amount of work and follow his suggestions, and you too can obtain new members for your group. This recounts the activities of K5DLE and best of all it works. It is fun to greet new people and tell them of the organization, and then get them involved in being a member.

We need some more Chapters so that more members can enjoy the benefits. I think there are about six under progress right now and two of those will activate an older Chapter again. Remember, it takes only five National members to form a Chapter.

Try it you will find it fun and getting the group together and working is also an experience.

Next year's Chapter Report

It is now the first of February and the Chapter reports, which were due by the end of January, continue to trickle in to the office. These go to help produce a list of Chapters and their Secretaries for a folder which we distribute to new members. It only takes a few minutes to complete the report and I just don't understand the reason for the delay. This year we are going to try and step up the program and that means if the Chapter Report has not been received, then the Chapter will not be listed in the brochure and will be considered inactive.

For an early look at what we have received so far, most of the Secretaries have indicated an e-mail address, and that is an improvement over last year. I find that about six out of 129 do not indicate anything so must assume they do not have a computer.

With that in mind how would you like to have a 'fillable' Chapter Report form for next year? For those that do not have internet capabilities, we can always print and mail their reports. We would still mail our lists of members, but post the form on the web site, for those that want to do it that way. Sure would make for easier reading, for headquarters, and for copy purposes it would be better. If you have any thoughts, let me know.

Since writing the last paragraph I created a 'fillable' Chapter Report form and sent it to some of the late filers we have. In its final form it worked very well and they downloaded, filled it in and put it into the mail for us. For next year I think we will mail the list of Chapter members we have and then send them an e-mail with the Chapter Report form as an attachment. For those that do not have e-mail available, we will mail the whole package as we have done in the past. In fact, for you who do not have computers or e-mail addresses, find a member in your Chapter who would lend their e-mail address and help you to complete the form.

Chapter Reports

We have recently received a number of outside requests that the members submitting the reports indicate the City and State of the meeting place.

One big benefit would be for traveling members to try and contact the Chapter and attend their meeting. Remember we have a large group and for the most part they are quite mobile.

If it is not possible to specify what city you meet in, then give your base city, the home of the President or Secretary and so indicate, so the traveling member might be able to contact you. Just a thought.

You might even include your e-mail address so they can make contact with you.



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

Journal

The last three mailings of the Journal have not gone well. The labels for those people with an apartment number, a box number or a lot number, etc, have not come out as they should. Consequently the postpeople have not delivered the mail to the member, and we get it back and pay .70 to find out this information.

This really came to a head this last mailing. The actual mailing was right after Xmas and I have (1) yet to receive my Journal and (2) nor receive the excess Journals which we use to clear up these mistakes to the tune of \$1.75 to re-mail a copy to the member. It is now one month after the mailing took place.

The mailing service has blamed everybody but their selves in this problem. Having done the labels for a number of years I know some of the problems and why they happen. In this case they have not operated their program properly and so things get mixed up and placed on the label where they should not be.

Hopefully things are going to get better and quickly for the March mailing.

In the meantime let us know of any problems your members have had in getting their Journal.

Mailing Journals is an expensive chore. We get a large number back (for \$0.70 a copy) to also let us know that the member is "temporarily away", in the case of the snowbirds. Please make arrangements to have your Journal forwarded or at least picked up; the PO does not do this on bulk mail. A few come through letting us know that the address has been changed (again for \$.70 plus \$1.75 for another Journal), so we change the data base to reflect this change. Tell us when you move, so we can try and stop this continued extra expense. All it takes is a post card or an e-mail.

With this issue of the Journal, Spring issue, we are using a new mailer and I am hoping this will solve the problems which have been increasing for the last three mailings. For some reason the programming has played havoc with the contents of the labels. The net result is that the mail cannot be properly delivered that were not properly addressed. All of this time some of us are fuming about the whole operation. As an example, I have still to receive my Winter Journal, which was mailed in late December, and it is now early in March.

I hope our problems are solved with this new arrangement and certainly their progress with the Spring issue points that way. It may be that we can get back on our old schedule of publication times of the Journal.

As I do this article, I have just received my current mailing. How about that? Neat Journal, except they did not mail any of the foreign or first class in envelopes and this sorta marked up a nice cover picture. Oh well, the rest of it went well and it is ahead of schedule.

Chapter Reports for the Journal

I know this has been mentioned before, and in the last issue our Editor made some remarks about material for the Journal.

I have returned two or three handwritten reports, for we cannot scan and convert this to a usable file for us in the Journal. Neither the Editor nor Headquarters have the time to decipher and then re-type these submissions.

What you can do is use your computer to send Headquarters an e-mail. Create a file of your report, attach it and send it with the e-mail message. Or, and maybe this is better, send the e-mail and the message of the e-mail can be your chapter report. When it is received it is very easy to convert it to a usable file for the Journal.

Pictures for the Journal can be actual prints from the photo shop or they can be digital files attached to an e-mail. Do not send us prints from your printer, they just do not reproduce well. If sending digital files the dpi of the file should be at least 150 dpi.

There are still typewriters out there and they are being used. please, if you type an article for the Journal make sure the ribbon is in good condition so we can read the printed version on the page. Our Journal content is looking pretty good, let us keep it that way.

AWARDS

In going through the returned Chapter Reports, I find that a number of Secretaries returned their copies of the list of chapter members and the information we have on each one. I took a look at the back side of the page, where all the dates are printed, showing on what date we issued a particular certificate.

This particular printing program has a glitch that I had forgotten about. I repaired it last year, but last July we lost our hard drive and when I reconstructed the program I replaced it with the old one, which had the error in it. The error is that any dates in the 50 yr column also appear in the 55 year column. If you think it necessary I will reprint those pages for you, so you can do your awards.

The other item I noticed is that on many of the returned reports, there are a lot of members deserving of awards which have not been requested. Either the Secretary or the individual can request the award. The only ones that we, here at headquarters do automatically, are the 75 year or higher awards. This year we have about fourteen 75 year plaques to get ready. I have highlighted items on a number of the reports and returned them to the secretary with a suggestion they check the calculation and then order the certificates.

As I have mentioned in the past, this is a great item for a Chapter program, whether you have one or more of them to present to the members. While you are at it, get a good picture and we can show it in the Journal along with your Chapter report of the event. This is one activity that we have followed for many years, with your help.



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

Journal Articles

With the advent of the great series of articles by George Hart, we have received many compliments about them. There is going to be a book in the final stages and we will let you know when that is developed. I don't have an idea of how much is going to be carried in the Journal, but Gerry Wentz is working on the format of the book.

In the meantime, some of you have some great stories about your radio past and why don't you relax and write them for us and we can use them in the Journal. A lot of your friends will enjoy those stories. If you have a few pictures to go with the story, include them and we will get the prints back to you.

Right now we are also carrying a series from memoirs by Jack Kelleher, W4ZC (SK), and this covers his development in the history of radio. All of it very interesting. Best of all I thought I knew Jack quite well and here is material that is entirely new to me.

So, come up with some memories for us. Our Editor can polish the work, don't worry about those details, just get us the story of the event and we can use it in the Journal. Many of us are part of 'That Greatest Generation' as Tom Brokaw named us, and from those years there are a lot of good tales that should be preserved and also shared with your friends.

ZIP + 4

This has not been talked about for some time and I noticed in the Chapter Reports that many are lacking the +four. For the first part of this year, try and use the +four in your zip addresses so we can get a good collection of them again. When it comes time for another Hot Line Report it makes it so much easier and somewhat less cost when we mail some small bulk mailings. Since we have not been making those Journal mailing labels for several years, our data base needs to be updated with the +four. This we previously obtained from the mailing label program and maintained our +four very well.

If we could start with the lists of Chapter members mailed out to the Chapters, inspect those and ask for the + four from the member, and then send us a copy of those sheets so we can fill in the vacancies in our zip information. This would be a good starting point. Next, perhaps a note in a Journal asking for people to send us an e-mail/post card with their Zip + four and we could then catch up on the rest of the membership.

You might make mention of this to your Chapter members and perhaps they can help complete the +four in the membership list right at the meeting or at least communicate the information to us at Headquarters.

Endowment News

A new program for Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. is the endowment fund. Information has been written about this in the past, but it is time to tell you about what is happening.

One of our members left his radio estate to the fund. Arrangements were made with a club in the area to remove a tower and beam and to inventory all of his equipment. Among his collection was a "spy radio" as he called it and he used it behind the enemy lines to teach people how to use it to communicate with the allies. It operated on 80 and 40 meters, phone and CW and even had a tiny key recessed in the case, which could be pulled into position to operate. Interestingly enough, there were no indications as to whom the manufacturer might be.

Rather than let this go into the hands of the amateur radio operators we started a search on the Internet for a suitable museum to whom we could entrust this piece of equipment. What a search that turned out to be. Finally, a fax was sent to the CIA and a reply came forth very promptly from the curator of their museum. They wanted this for their collection and knew all about the gear. The radio gear was packed and shipped to them. The curator has promised a picture of the display and an article as soon as it is prepared for viewing. We included some of his QSL cards to identify the donor in the display.

A number of individuals have contributed to this fund and their names are listed in the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. Journal.

We had one other piece of equipment donated, it was sold at a hamfest and those monies deposited into the account of the Endowment Fund.

In this Spring issue of the Journal is an article prepared by Alan Pickering, KJ9N, one of our Directors, about one new development in the program. Please take time and read it.

I think this has turned into a valuable tool to help surviving members of a family to dispose of amateur radio gear. They leave it to QCWA and through the Endowment Fund we can handle the collection and inventorying and the ultimate disposal of this part of the estate. Since we are a (501) (c)(3) tax exempt organization, they can take a deduction for this gift to QCWA.. That deduction can be substantial in many cases. Best of all it solves what can be a great problem for that surviving partner.

Consider putting this into your will. Leave all the amateur equipment to QCWA. You can tell us about it if you wish, but at the time of the demise of the amateur operator, be sure to let us know so we can start the process. We will usually get a Chapter and/or a local radio club to assist in the process.

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